



# **Lewis Little Folks**

## **Winter 2007 Newsletter**

### **Office News:**

*Ms. Maureen Sartain, Ms. Carmella Genaro*

Happy New Year to all of our LLF families! Now that the rush of the holidays is over, we can all take a big breath and begin to enjoy winter (yes, winter can be enjoyable!) and prepare for the upcoming year.

We had an enjoyable fall here at LLF. Thanks to all parents for contributing and participating in our Pumpkin Patch and Halloween Trick-or-Treat events. It was so much fun! Also, thank to all parents for taking time out of your schedules to meet with your child's teacher for parent/teacher conferences. Although the children are young, we believe it's important to spend time talking about goals for their development. If you were not able to attend or are interested in meeting with your child's teacher throughout the school year, please contact your teacher to set up a conference. We can make accommodations for your child's teacher to meet with you at any time.

Thank you to all families who contributed money and items for our "Giving Tree". We donated all items to Laura's Home which is a shelter for families in crisis on the west side. We were able to purchase 15 seven-day bus passes with donated money, and delivered all gifts in time for distribution at their holiday party. The staff of Laura's Home sent a very heart-felt thank you card and said that all items were greatly needed and appreciated.

Thank you to former parent, Alan Hewston, and his entire cast of costumed characters for visiting us this past December. We appreciated having Cookie Monster, Ernie and Bert, Elmo, Snow White, Tigger, and all of the others at our school.



We have a lot to look forward to in 2007 at LLF.

LLF will be holding Kindergarten registration for the 2007/08 school year in March. Parents of Kindergarten eligible children will be notified of the registration process and a Kindergarten Open House will be held to answer any questions prior to registration.

We are also beginning to plan for Summer Camp '07. As usual, we will plan a fun, exciting, and very active summer. Camp is offered to our Tigers, Kindergartners, and older siblings. More information on our camp program will be coming soon!

The children will be going outside on days that the temperature is 32 degrees and over. Please make sure your child is prepared. You can bring boots and snow pants to keep at school or bring them each day. Outdoor play is very important for gross motor development of the children. Fresh air is equally important.

On behalf of the entire LLF staff, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for issuing bonuses to each staff member at Christmas time. The thoughtfulness means a lot to us. I would also like to thank the Staff Appreciation Committee for the Target gift cards they gave to each staff member along with luncheons and breakfast for the staff. We appreciate all they have done and the parents who donated money and time to this committee. The staff at LLF is very lucky to have parents show their appreciation for us. It means more than you know.

Thank you again to Concha Reid, parent and Board Secretary, for contributing a fun parent/child activity, "Lava Lamp". The instructions for this activity are at the end of this newsletter.

#### **Prevention of Illnesses/Medication for Children:**

I am urging all parents to review the LLF Communicable Disease Policy, which is in section 4.6 of the Parents Policies and Procedures Handbook. Although we understand that it is often inconvenient for families to keep a sick child home, we must follow this policy for all children enrolled. This policy, along with thorough hand washing and cleaning, is our only defense against the spread of germs among the children and staff. This policy is also a state licensing requirement. We cannot provide sick child care. Also, I would like to remind all of you about administration of medication at LLF. Tylenol and Motrin are fever reducers. LLF cannot administer over the counter medications without a doctor's note. If you are administering these types of medication to your child to reduce a fever, they should not be in attendance at LLF. Reducing a fever does not mean that the child is no longer contagious. A child can return to LLF after they are fever/symptom free for at least 24 hours. The only exception to this rule is if we have a signed doctor's note specifically stating that a child is not contagious. The child also must be well enough to be able to participate with the classroom activities. Thank you all in advance for understanding this policy to keep all of our children healthy and safe.

**Curriculum:**

Music classes resumed this month for all classes. Ms. Lauren from the Music Therapy Enrichment Center comes to LLF each Tuesday to provide hands-on music class for all children. Please check with your child's teacher for their time slot. Parents are welcome to stop by during music class to participate. The children (even the babies) really get into it!

We are looking into starting another session of Spanish for all Tigers and Kindergartners. More information will be sent to parents in the coming weeks.

The Kindergartners have started physical education classes each Wednesday in the gym. The teachers from all other classes will be conducting their own "gym class" as part of their curriculum so that all children will work on gross motor skills throughout the winter.

**Reminders:**

LLF has monthly fire drills. These are conducted with the NASA First Responders. These drills enable us to test our alarm and to get the children used to exiting the building quickly if it's ever needed. Please be aware that if you are picking up or dropping off your child when this alarm comes on, you are required to exit the building immediately with the rest of us. The staff is not ever aware if the alarm is real or just a drill, so leaving the building is a requirement. We also do not want to confuse the children by letting them stay inside the building with parents when they have been constantly reinforced to leave each time we have a drill. Each room in the building has a posted sign indicating the exit route that is to be taken.

Also, we have a special request to parents when picking up your children each evening. Please reinforce our rules about staying with an adult (parent or teacher) when leaving to prevent any accidents or problems. Please do not let children run away from you down hallways, into other classrooms, or out the front door. With your help, we can reinforce the rules that the children experience daily while in our care.

**LLF BOARD/COMMITTEE NEWS:****President's Report**

*By: Christopher J. Williams*

Email: [christopher.j.williams@nasa.gov](mailto:christopher.j.williams@nasa.gov)

I would first like to wish the entire Lewis Little Folks family happiness and good health in the New Year. I feel truly honored to work with and share the joy of the holiday season with the Board members, Staff, parents, and children of LLF.

As I mentioned in the fall newsletter, we began this fiscal year by identifying a few guiding principles that we continue to use as our roadmap toward continuous improvement. Our three points of focus are: **Continuing the High Quality of Care**, **Meeting the needs of GRC Employees**, and **Increasing Communications**. I'm excited to report that with the help of our Director and Assistant Director, we have been making strides in all three areas.

### **Continuing the High Quality of Care**

Our Accreditation Committee lead by Concha Reid and Judy VanZante has worked very hard over the last 18 months to research the available options that LLF has regarding Early Childhood Education accreditation agencies. A recommendation has been made and was approved by the Board. As of December, LLF began the first steps in achieving National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA). While the level of care provided at LLF continues to far exceed the State of Ohio Licensing requirements, this type of independent accreditation will allow us continued success in the care and education of the children of LLF. I would like to thank Concha Reid, Judy VanZante, Gwendolyn Flowers, Christine Greenwalt, and Maureen Sartain for their work on this important project. The process for accreditation will take hard work by many people. If you have an interest in learning about or assisting in this process please speak with Maureen or Carm. I'm sure that they could use the assistance in compiling the necessary documentation.

I am also very happy to report that our fall restructuring of some of the classrooms has helped us to increase enrollment above the budget projections from last year. More importantly, this restructuring has given LLF the financial flexibility to maintain the excellent child to teacher ratios that are so critical to high quality care. Maureen, Carmella, and the Board members will be looking at the summer and the next fall projected rosters to be sure that we are as close to full enrollment as possible next fall. Our waiting list for young children is being built up again and we're hopeful that future enrollment will continue to be strong.

### **Meeting the needs of GRC Employees**

In the fall newsletter, I mentioned that we were working on a plan to expand the summer camp program to allow for older children to participate. We are still working with GRC to coordinate the installation of a temporary classroom trailer for use in this new program. Once the temporary installation of the trailer is approved, the committee will work toward developing the age appropriate curriculum for the older children. A notice regarding this older children summer camp will be sent out as soon as final arrangements are made. Our goal is to have the facility arrangements made in the next 30 days.

### **Increasing Communications**

The Board has been working very hard to get Board Meeting Minutes approved and distributed in a timely fashion. Board Secretary, Concha Reid, is working with our web curator to get faster updates to the LLF website. She is also working with our web curator on a redesign of the site to make it a bit more user-friendly. The process of changing and updating the website is slow to develop as we are working with someone outside of the LLF to update and redesign the website.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank those of you who have volunteered your time as committee members or with special activities in 2006. LLF benefits greatly from your efforts and these activities go a long way into creating the family atmosphere that we all enjoy.

### **Staff Appreciation Committee**

*By: Michelle Mrdenovich for Heather Linden*

First I would like to congratulate Heather Linden and her family on the arrival of their daughter Jessica! While Heather is out on maternity, any questions or comments about the Staff Appreciation Committee can be directed to me. I can be reached at 216.433.6951.

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, LLF SAC members, Doreen Zudell and Kamana Katiyar, on behalf of the LLF parents, distributed Christmas gifts to the LLF Staff. Each staff member received a felt Santa Pants gift bags loaded with candy and a Target gift card. The gifts were well received by the teachers and they have extended their thanks to us.



A “Winter Warm-up” will be held on February 9th, when the SAC will be treating the teachers to hot chocolate, baked goodies and other snacks. I would like to send a big **thank you** to all of you for making these events possible through your donations and volunteerism

### **Fundraising Committee**

*By: Michelle Mrdenovich*

Happy New Year! I want to thank all of you for your support of our fundraisers so far. 2007 brings new ideas and the official start of the planning for our big summer fundraisers. With that in mind, please consider joining us for the next fundraising meeting. We will be discussing the Golf Outing and Kid’s Fair as well as a few smaller fundraisers. Please watch your email for the date. If you are unable to attend the meeting but are interested in helping, please email me at [Michelle.Mrdenovich@nasa.gov](mailto:Michelle.Mrdenovich@nasa.gov).

There have been two new retailers added to our gift card list. You can now order gift cards for Starbucks and Outback. If you would like a list of retailers or more information on gift card ordering, please stop by the LLF office.

Thanks again for your support!

### **Science and Adventure Fund Committee**

*By: Melissa L. McGuire (Board Vice President)*

*Melissa.L.McGuire@nasa.gov*

While this committee has been quiet since the start of our Board's term last summer, we intend to get things moving this year. The major goal of this year's activities is to build or buy a weather station (or stations) for the older children. I've been researching plans available online for homemade weather stations, as well as books for kids out there that the teachers could incorporate into their curriculums as a way to teach children about the weather, gathering data and the scientific method.

To that end, we're going to need volunteers for this committee. Anyone with handyman/woman skills is more than welcome to join us. Look to your email inboxes in the coming weeks for an invitation letter. I hope to have the plans finalized so we can begin building things when the spring weather arrives. In the meantime, parents can feel free to email along any suggestions, experiences or ideas for school weather stations.

The Science and Adventure fund was made possible by a generous endowment from a former NASA employee currently working at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Jerry Konyk.

### **Accreditation Committee**

*By: Concha Reid and Judy Van Zante*

The Accreditation Committee presented a recommendation to the LLF Board that LLF pursue accreditation with the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation Agency. We also recommended that LLF simultaneously pursue Step up to Quality, a voluntary program that is linked to State Licensing. Both the accreditation process and the pursuit of Step up to Quality will raise the quality and standard of care at LLF. In addition, Step up to Quality awards grant money to the center as certain criteria are met and maintained. With these recommendations, this committee brings its official duties to a close. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the members of this committee who have each served for almost two years: Judy Van Zante, who kicked off this committee and chaired it last year, Gwendolyn Flowers, Christine Greenwalt, and Maureen Sartain. We will continue to work behind the scenes to support Maureen and LLF during the application processes and the self study phase.

### **Kindergarten Committee**

*By: Michelle Williamson (Chair) and Concha Reid (Board Liaison)*

The Kindergarten wrapped up 2006 with a fun-filled Holiday party with their parents. The kids made candy cane ornaments, played the HO!HO!HO! game, and participated in a Holiday trivia game along with their parents. They feasted on appetizers such as a veggie tray, cheese & crackers, and, of course, topped off the healthy food with some vanilla ice cream decorated with sprinkles and some holiday cookies!! The 100th day of school is coming soon! The children will celebrate during class time with a fun filled day of activities, pizza making, and games. Everything will add up to 100 of course!

Valentine's Day is also coming soon. There will be a party where the menu will include food items and drinks that are red. Of course, there will be games and treat bags!! Parents are welcome to attend the Valentine's party. Details will be coming soon.

## **CLASSROOM NEWS:**

### **Bunny 1: Ms. Renee, Ms. Paulette**

Winter has arrived and the snow is falling! Now that the holidays are over, we can concentrate on doing more season appropriate artwork with our older babies. We will be working with the different mediums such as paint, play dough, markers, chalk and finger paint. During the winter season, we will “discover” the snow by bringing it indoors and putting it in our water table and using our shovels and buckets.

We would like to welcome our newest “bunny,” A.J. Hill, born on January 21, 2006, and who is the son of Ms. Nicole, the Duckling Room teacher. He made a good and quick adjustment to our room. Also, please welcome Ms. Crystal, who works part time in both Bunny rooms in the afternoon. She is doing a great job and the babies love her.

Congratulations and goodbye to Lorelei Hack who graduated to the Duck Room. She also made a great transition, but we will miss her. Lorelei was “our little helper” and “our little mother” to all the younger babies since September.

Happy first birthday to A.J. Hill on January 21, Annabelle Funk on February 1, Mikey Groff, on March 6, Ashley Miller on March 25, and Olivia Nagorka, who celebrated her first birthday on December 13.

Please be sure and check your child's clothes bin (under the crib) and bring in an extra set of warmer clothes that may become soiled during the day. And don't forget to check the sizes too; we grow so fast. In addition, now that the flu season is here, it's a good idea to put a onesie on your child everyday. It not only keeps the baby warmer, but it's also a sanitary issue by controlling the spread of germs particularly caused by diarrhea.

We would also like to thank all the parents for their Christmas cards and thoughtful gifts and for all the kind words that were expressed to us. We truly appreciate it. We really do have a great group of parents and babies!

### **Bunny 2: Ms. Tina, Ms. Melanie**

We would like to start off by wishing a happy birthday to Natalie Myers on December 17<sup>th</sup> and Ian Peterson on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Natalie who is now walking and a big welcome to John Haag and his family to Bunny 2.

Thank you to all of our parents for coming to our holiday party. It was nice to see all of you. We also enjoyed all the yummy goodies that were contributed for our party.

The Bunnies have been learning to do sign language, and they have a lot of fun trying. We will continue to learn more signs and we will share them with our parents.

We will have a Valentine's Day party on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> and also a St. Patrick's Day party on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Ducklings: Ms. Ashley, Ms. Nicole**

Hello from the Duckling Room! Hope all had a wonderful holiday season and all your wishes came true. Transitions to the Duck Room went well! We enjoy each and every one's child in our classroom.

We would like to welcome our newest friend, Lorelei Hack, and her family to the Duck Room. It has been a pleasure to work with your child.

We have many fun activities planned for the upcoming months including fun art projects, exploring our surroundings and doing group time. We will be working on our listening skills as well as sharing and using gentle touches with our friends. Our monthly lesson plans are on the parent bulletin board outside the classroom. Each child also receives one to keep.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please don't hesitate to ask or share.

**Puppy 1: Ms. Anita, Ms. Vicki**

We would like to wish a Happy New Year to all of our parents and their families. We hope this year is as wonderful as the last. The next couple of months will bring us more opportunities for learning and exploring. We are hoping that the weather will once again bring us snow so that we will be able to go outside and build snowmen and frolic in the snow. In order for us to do this each child needs to have the proper winter attire to go outside, so please remember to bring in the winter gear. We will make room outside and to the left of our door in the hallway. There will be a designated spot for each child to place their boots. This is to limit the puddles and slipping inside the classroom.

The developmental skills we have been working on are lengthening our attention spans, listening and following direction. Every day we have a group time that includes a "Good Morning Song", a story, and a music and movement activity. We have recently added a weather bear to help us learn different types of weather, and how to dress for the weather. Our day also consists of some type of large motor activities such as playing in the gym or going outside. The children have opportunities to run, jump, and work on their balancing skills. These are skills that your child practices to improve coordination and strength. A few days a week we include an art activity, which can be something simple such as coloring. On other days we get more creative with different types of painting. Your children really enjoying painting, so we will do this as often as possible in as many ways possible. The next couple of months we will be learning about topics like snow and the winter season, healthy bodies and farms. We will be taking our time to learn about the different themes to help enrich the experiences we bring into the classroom.

We also will have some birthdays that are coming up that we will be celebrating. Our friend Anthony Ratino will be turning 3years old on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Elaine Schaft, Katie Iannicca and Nicole Trsek will be turning 2 years old in the month of February and Jacob



Linden also will be turning 2 in the month of March. We are very excited for all of our birthday girls and boys!

It is important to us that you and your child are happy while they are here, so if there are any questions you would like to address please talk with us. One of the best times to talk with us is during the naptime between 12:30 and 2:30. If this is not a convenient time for you we can always plan for another time.

One last reminder, do not forget to keep your child's basket filled with extra clothes especially when it comes time for potty training. We just want to make sure your child has everything they need to be comfortable while they are here.

### **Puppy 2: Ms. Tara, Ms. Nancy**

Winter is here and we are starting to feel the difference. In the month of January, we have talked about the cold and what we wear in this cold weather. The kids have really picked up on this and have been getting into it. We even took a parade through the school with our hats and gloves on, and did some winter weather dancing!! Through out the rest of the month we will continue to talk about the cold, along with ice and germs. The monthly calendar will be sent home each month and it's always hanging in our room and outside our room along with the weekly calendar as well.

A new year has started and soon a lot of our puppies will be turning 3. Since the new year, we have been in potty training mode and have seen great results!! The key is to be consistent. When you want to start potty training, please bring in a few pairs of underwear, pants, socks and a pair of extra shoes. We are more than happy to change them, but going back and forth from underwear to diapers gets the children more confused. We are more than happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this life changing step. We also have packets that you may read to help you along.

We have a bunch of birthdays coming up in the next couple of months. Kylie Jicha will be 2 on Jan. 13th, Darcie Zudell will be 3 on Feb. 1st, Noah Weaver will be 2 on Feb. 2nd, Julia Groff will be 3 on Feb. 4th, and Hope Ptacek will be 2 on Feb. 4th. Our March birthdays are: Imani Wright will be 2 on the 6th, Hannah Jones will be 3 on the 12th, Sophia Arbogast will be 3 on the 17th, Helina Wilson will be 3 on the 31st, and Ms. Nancy will celebrate a birthday on the 27th!! Happy Birthday to you all and we wish you many more to come!!!

We sent home a copy of the morning songs that we sing on a daily basis. We have been hearing that your children are singing them at home. Hopefully they are helping you sing along with them! Also, you are more than welcome to drop in and listen to our circle time. We love visitors and you may join us anytime. If you would like, you can even volunteer to read sometime. Just let us know and we can arrange for it to happen!

Be sure that you keep the spare clothes in the box under your child's locker filled with the proper clothes. Also, be sure to bring in a blanket each week, and take the dirty one home to be washed at the end of each week.

It's hard to believe how fast the time has been going by, but we have seen a tremendous difference in each and every child since the fall transition. We are so proud of all of your kids and are so happy to have each and every one of them!! Nancy I and find it so rewarding to see the kids grow and develop as the time goes by!! We would like to thank our parents for being supportive and open minded. We will have a lot of the same kids for a while and to have a good bond is necessary...Thank you!!

**Preschool 1: Ms. Cathy, Ms. Aurea:**

First and foremost, preschool one would like to say Happy New Year and we hope that the New Year brings all of you good health, faith, and happiness. Wow! It's already January and the beginning of a new year. The children have been working very hard in their curriculum. We have been practicing our addresses and phone numbers. Also the children have been doing a lot of handwriting; practicing writing their letters and names. With the help of Ms. Aurea, the Tigers have been catching up on their Spanish and the Bears are also having fun learning the language. We are planning on having more fun and learning activities in the upcoming months. Ms. Cathy will continue to teach the children American Sign Language.

**Activities:** The activities that are planned in the day's curriculum are centered around math, science, and art. These activities are very hands on in using a lot of fine motor skills such as gluing, coloring, writing, sorting, and cutting. Another activity that we have been doing is the File Folder games. The games include matching and sorting patterns, counting, and recognizing letters (upper case and lower case). The children enjoy these games while using it with other friends. Now that the cold weather is here, there is very limited time to go outside. We have been using our large motor skills in the gym playing basketball, relay races, bean bag dances, and other fun activities.

**Welcomes & Congratulations:** We would like to welcome Cameron Dennis and Emma Hicks into Preschool One and the LLF family. Also we would like to congratulate Nicholas Rhodes (Bear 1) in becoming a big brother. Nicholas is a big brother of his new baby sister Emma Rhodes who was born on Dec 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Congratulations to the Rhodes family!

**Thank You:** We would like to thank Scott Williamson for creating 24 wooden bird houses. It was a special gift that the children made for their parents for Christmas. It was very time consuming for Scott and that is why we would like to say THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!!!! Hope that all the parents loved their special Christmas gifts.

**Birthdays and Celebrations:** We would like to say happy birthday to Marcus Steele (12/10) and Nicholas Rhodes (12/30). They celebrated their birthdays in December. In February we would like to say happy birthday to Ms. Aurea (2/16) and Abby Williamson (2/15). In March we will be saying happy birthday to Zachery Padula (3/29). On Wed. Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> we will be having a healthy heart Valentine's Day party at 2:45 p.m. and we will be celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss the week of March 5<sup>th</sup>.

We have been very busy and having fun all at the same time. There will be a lot more fun activities in the upcoming months. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call Ms.Cathy between the hours of 1:30p.m.-2:30p.m. or Ms. Aurea between the hours of 12:30p.m.-1:30p.m. at 433-9177.

**Preschool 2: Ms. Maureen B., Ms. Sharyl**

The Preschool-2 Room had a great holiday season. We had fun decorating our room, making gifts and wrapping them, and getting together for a holiday party. Thanks to everyone who helped make our party a success and we hope everyone had a good time off with family and friends. Welcome back to everyone, and welcome Emily Williams, who is now in our bear room.

Starting in January, we will be reviewing the letters and numbers that we already have learned A/a - O/o and 1-15. Then we will continue on with the alphabet and the numbers. We will be studying penguins, winter weather, winter animals, and hibernation.

BIRTHDAYS from December through March are:

Emily Williams 12/11  
Michelle LeGallee 12/15  
Michael Rolince 2/21  
Benjamin Roberts 2/24  
Rohan Menon 3/6  
Nichaela Noebe 3/12

**Preschool 3: Ms. Donna, Mr. Tim**

As we write this newsletter, the sun is shining and it feels more like spring than winter! In the event that we do get a measurable amount of snow, please make sure your child has the following: snow boots, snow pants, mittens, coat, and hat. We will go outside if the temperature is 32 degrees or above.

January's theme is snow and cold. February is caring for others including a Valentine's Day party on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 – more details to follow. In March we will be learning about baby animals, farm life, and a Dr. Suess week.

Don't forget that show-n-tell is every Thursday. Please send in an appropriate item with your child. The children are disappointed when they don't have something to share. Also, we are in need of some alphabet snacks. Please see alphabet sign-up sheet to help out. Thank you!!

Birthday wishes go out to the following: Doug & Allison Sartain 2/1/02, Xaria Sims 2/27/02.

If your child will not be coming to school, please call us and let us know!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please contact us at 433-9183.

**Kindergarten: Ms. Foster**

EXTRA! EXTRA! GET YOUR KINDERGARTEN NEWS HERE!

Happy New Year! Start your year out with a chuckle. The children were asked, "What is Santa Claus doing now?"

Jaylon Bowen: checking the list for next year and practice riding the reindeers.

Megan Stewart: washing the sleigh and making candy.

Alex Krinov.: taking a nap and taking practice runs.

Emma Greenwalt: feeding the reindeers and taking a bath.

Atoosa Kassemi: making more cat shirts.

Mitra Kassemi: making more dolls

Olivia Passe: washing the penguins and feeding the reindeer.

Ryan Kortes: taking a nap and jogging.

Alex Sarabura: cleaning the reindeers

Robert Fulop: cleaning the polar bears

Teresa Jones: cleaning fleas off the reindeers

Zoe Bridges: Making more toys

Claire Hu: no response.

Heather Williamson: getting ready for next year.

Now on a more serious note:

We are working very hard in 2007.

In math, the children are learning to tell time, write numbers 1-100, read a calendar, and measure and count money.

In reading/language readiness we will finish the alphabet by learning the sounds and writing the letters. We will begin reading high frequency words and word families, identify words that rhyme, opposites and identify different kinds of sentences.

In science, we are studying the body and will look at the Earth and sky.

In social studies, we will study how neighborhoods grow and change, the seasons,

community helpers and using maps.

Can you believe it will be 100 days of school on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>? We will have our annual 100 Day Party on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. The children will be making pizza and have a fun day of 100 day activities.

Valentine's Day will be here soon with another party to look forward to. The party will be held on Wed., Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>.

Several children have birthdays: Heather Williamson(Jan. 16), Claire Hu (March 12), Alex Sarabura (March 21) and Alex Krinov (April 14). HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!

#### **After-School News: Ms. Ammons**

Crafts, crafts, crafts..... I hope you enjoyed all the crafts your child made in after-school. We were very busy all winter long. In the coming months we will have more open ended art activities and painting at the easel. Several cooking projects are planned in the months ahead. February is black history month and I plan on sharing some soul food dishes with your child that we will prepare at school and have for lunch or snack. I encourage all parents of L.L.F. to come in during Black History Month and volunteer to sing songs, play instruments or read a book by an African American author in Kindergarten or in after-school. A calendar will be posted at our door. Please sign your name and the time you would like to volunteer.

#### **Kitchen Information: Ms. Linda Ryan**

Please continue to save Campbell's labels and Box Tops for Education coupons. There is a collection bin for each in the main lobby.

Please check the lost and found box (main lobby) for any items that may have gone astray. Be sure to label any and all personal items so that they may be promptly returned.

Please be aware that breakfast is served from 8:00 to 9:00 each morning. Anyone arriving after 9:00 may get a bowl of cereal and juice at the table in the main lobby up to 9:30. I ask your continued consideration so that kitchen operations are not delayed.

Thank you to all who participated in our giving tree program this past holiday season. We received a heart-filled note of appreciation and gratefulness from Laura's home. It is posted on bulletin board outside of Carm's office. Stop by and take a look.

#### **Box Tops for Education**

*By: Kathy Turnick, coordinator*

Please keep saving your Box Tops! They are worth \$0.10 each and they really add up. Get ready for our February contest. A special prize will be given to the winning classroom. More information will be coming. If you have any questions, please see Kathy Turnick.

## Out of this World Kid's Corner Activity

### Lava Lamp

Here is a simple recipe for a "lava lamp" that is kid-friendly. You will need:

- A small container with a lid. This works best with a tall, narrow container, such as a leftover spice jar or a candy sprinkles jar. A baby food jar can also be used.
- Mineral oil
- Food coloring
- Water

Fill the container about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with oil. Add some food coloring to some water so that it is the desired color. The water will be the "lava". Top off the container with the colored water, leaving just a little space in the top for an air pocket. Put on lid and close tightly. Flip container back and forth to see the lava flow.

Different effects can be achieved by adding things to the container, such as salt, glitter, beads, or other sparkly things. This project can teach older kids about density and viscosity of liquids, or it can just be used for fun with younger kids.